BENDIS
ANKA
GRACIA

034

X-UNCANNY MEN

Born with genetic mutations that give them abilities beyond those of normal humans, mutants are the next stage in evolution.

As such, they are feared and hated by humanity. But a group of mutants known as the X-Men fight for peaceful coexistence between mutants and humankind.

But not all mutants see peaceful coexistence as a reality.

CYCLOPS WAS THE PUBLIC FACE FOR WHAT HE CALLED "THE NEW MUTANT REVOLUTION." VOWING TO PROTECT THE MUTANT RACE, HE GATHERED A NEW GENERATION OF MUTANTS TO TRAIN THEM. BUT NOW, IT SEEMS HE MAY HAVE ABANDONED HIS CAUSE, AND IN THE PROCESS ABANDONED HIS STUDENTS AND FELLOW X-MEN.

THE SHAPE-SHIFTING TERRORIST KNOWN AS MYSTIQUE IMPERSONATED ALISON BLAIR, A.K.A. DAZZLER—THE MUTANT LIAISON FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.—IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP S.H.I.E.L.D. OFF HER TRAIL. THROUGH MYSTIQUE'S ARTFUL DECEPTION, THE REAL ALISON BLAIR FOUND HERSELF IMPRISONED, MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR MYSTIQUE TO HARVEST MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE FROM DAZZLER'S BODY, WHICH SHE THEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE RESIDENTS OF HER NEW MUTANT UTOPIA IN MADRIPOOR.

NOW THAT DAZZLER HAS BEEN RESCUED BY MAGNETO—SHE'S BACK.

SHE'S MAD.

AND SHE'S READY TO ROCK OUT.

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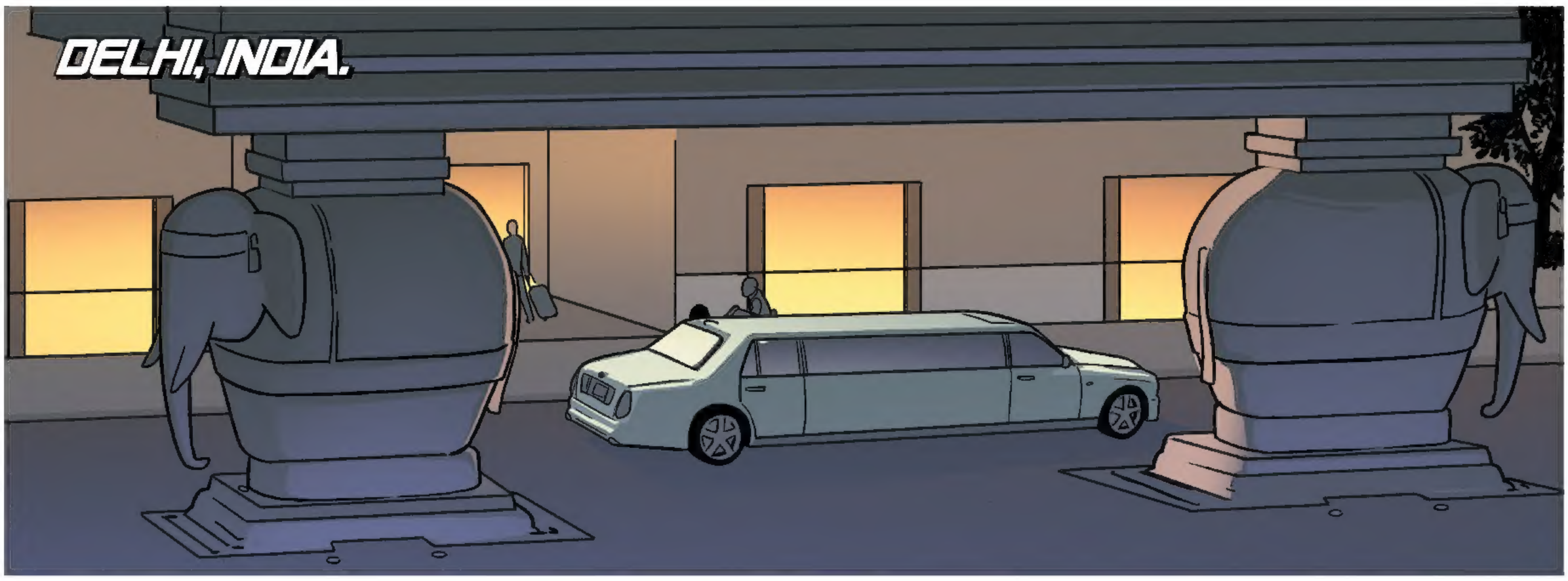
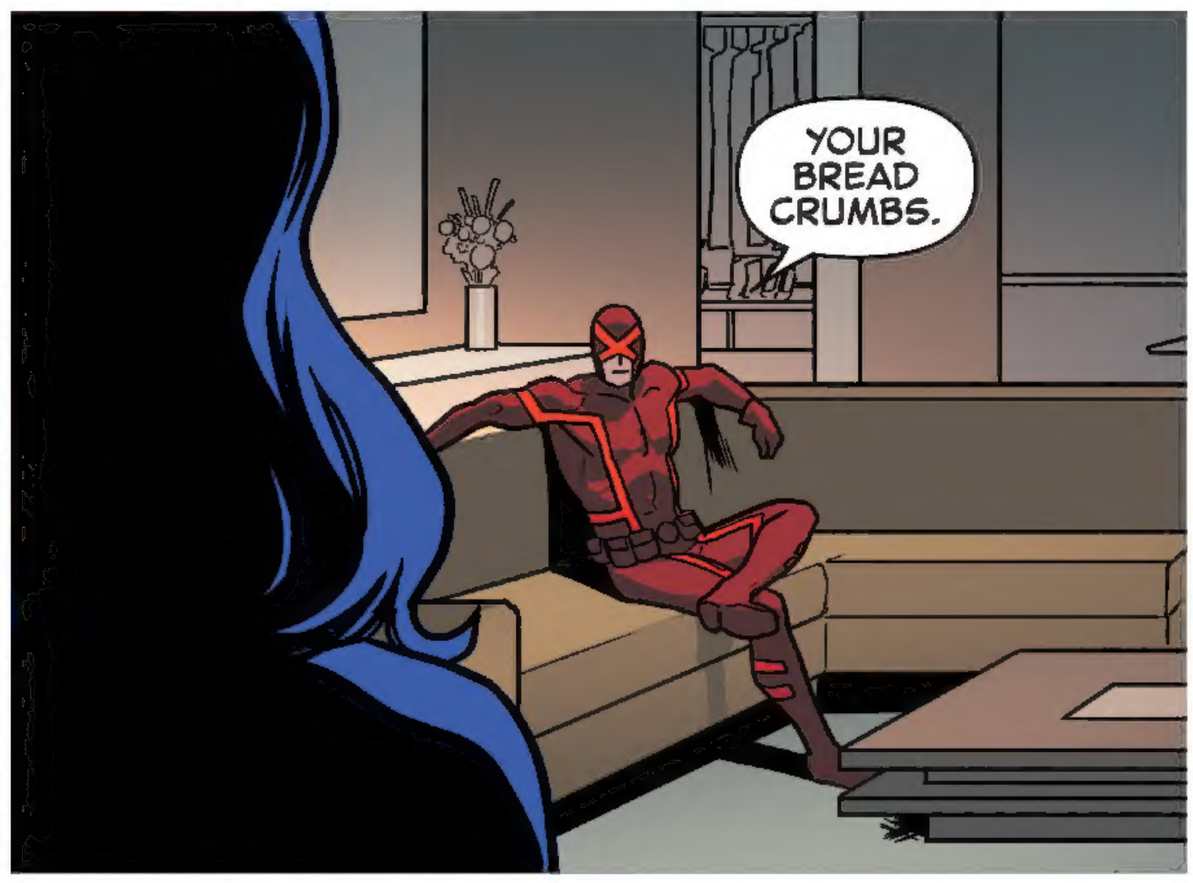
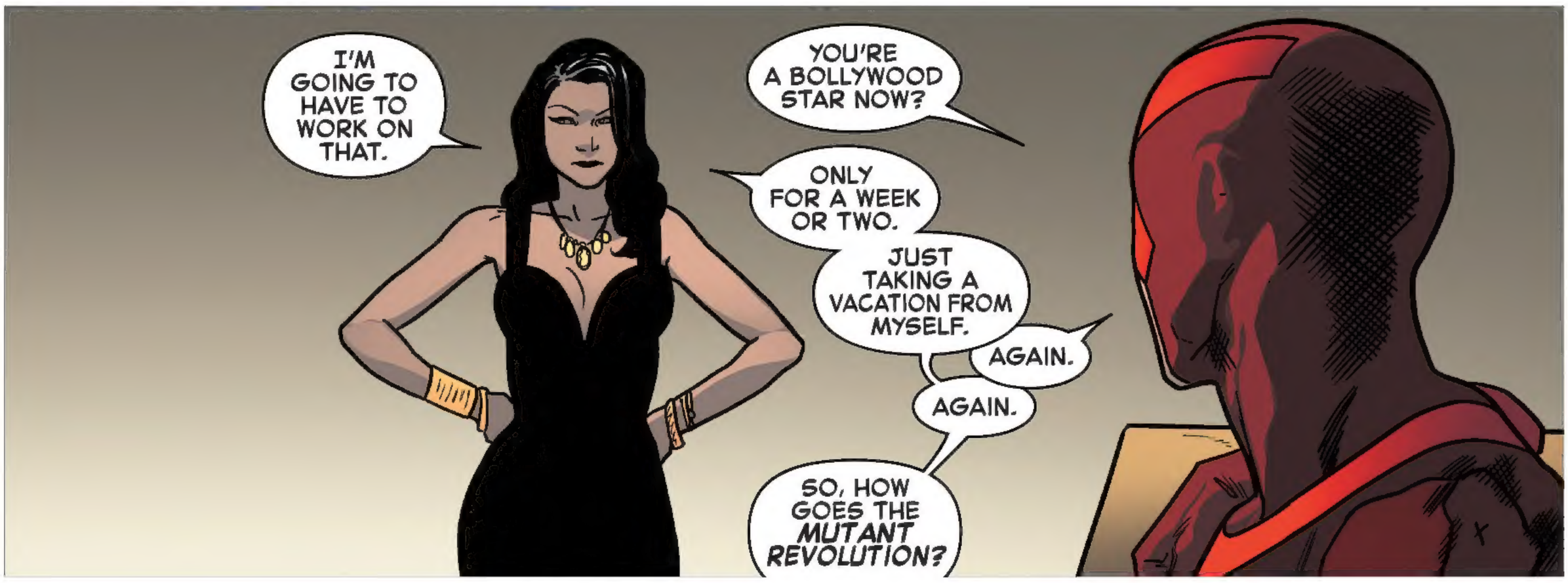

DELHI, INDIA.

HELLO, RAVEN.

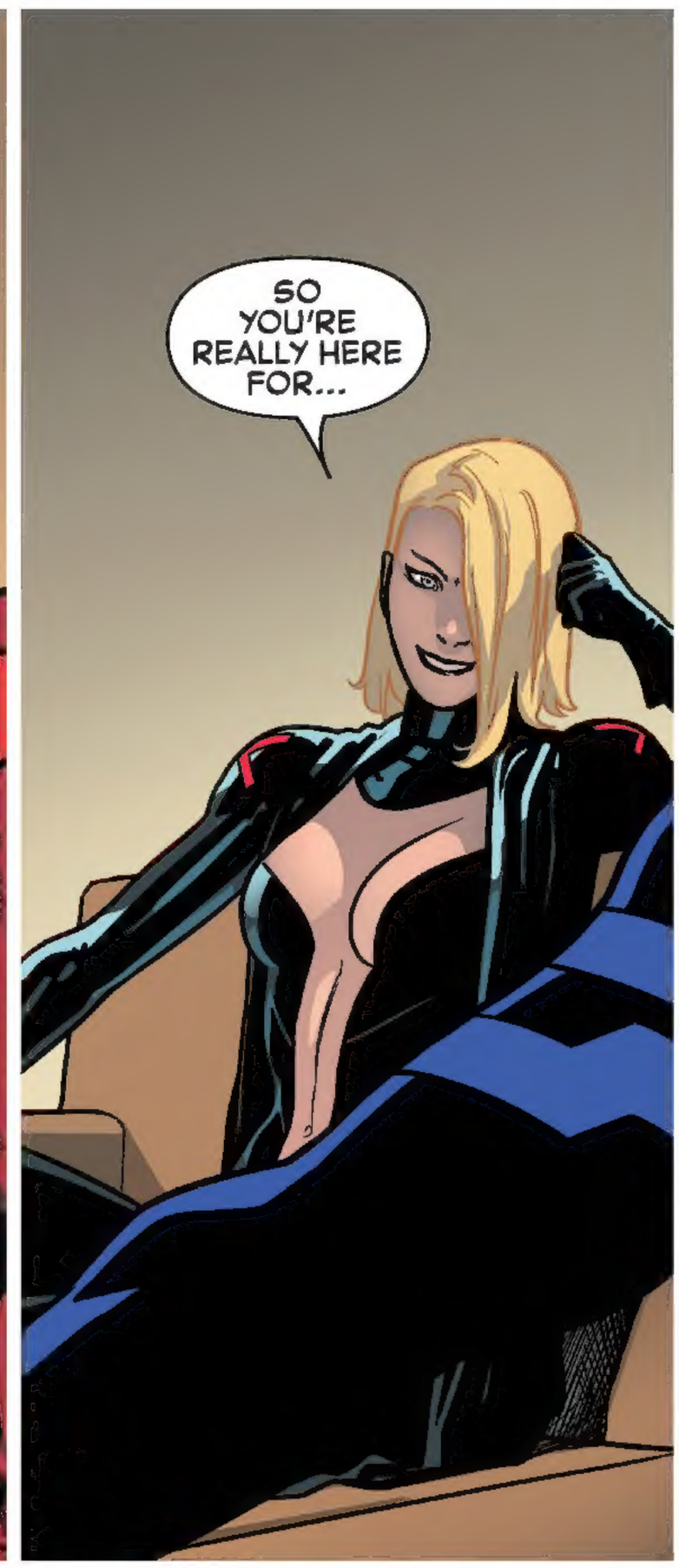
SCOTT SUMMERS.
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?


YOUR BREAD CRUMBS.


I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WORK ON THAT.
YOU'RE A BOLLYWOOD STAR NOW?
ONLY FOR A WEEK OR TWO.
JUST TAKING A VACATION FROM MYSELF.
AGAIN.
AGAIN.
SO, HOW GOES THE MUTANT REVOLUTION?

IT WOULD BE GOING BETTER IF YOU WEREN'T OUT HERE IN THE WILD CAUSING TROUBLE.
WHO ELSE IS HERE?
JUST ME.
I WANTED TO TALK.

I FIGURED IF THE X-MEN GANGED UP ON YOU, THE DISCOURSE LEVEL WOULD DROP TO PUNCHING AND KICKING.
SO YOU AND EMMA BROKE UP AGAIN.
THAT HAPPENED A WHILE AGO.


SO YOU'RE REALLY HERE FOR...

I'M REALLY HERE TO TALK.

REALLY TALK?

REALLY...
TALK.

REALLY REALLY TALK?

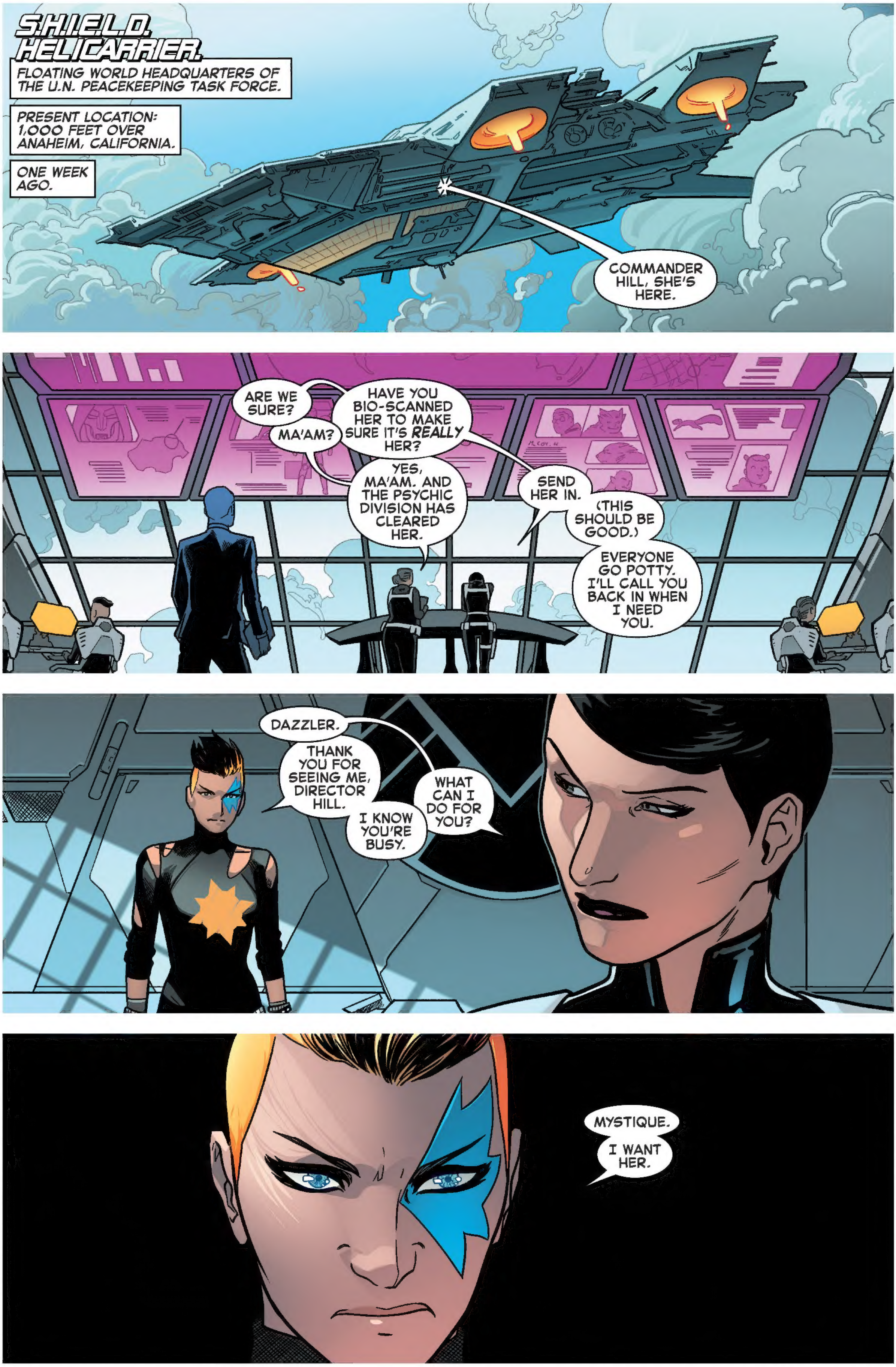
WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU, RAVEN?
FOR REAL?
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, SCOTT...
...A LITTLE BIT OF ME AND A NORMAL MAN WOULD BURST INTO TEARS AND/OR NOT BE ABLE TO SIT STRAIGHT.
YOU'VE BEEN IN SO MANY MESSED-UP RELATIONSHIPS THAT THIS KIND OF THING ROLLS RIGHT OFF OF YOU.

RAVEN...
YOU ARE A MUTANT OF EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY.
YOU MIGHT BE ONE OF THE BEST.
MIGHT?
BUT ONE MINUTE YOU'RE SETTING UP A NIGHTMARE MUTANT UTOPIA IN MADRIPOOR.

THE NEXT YOU'RE ATTACKING YOUR OWN PEOPLE.
(WHAT YOU DID TO DAZZLER...)
YOU WERE ONE OF XAVIER'S SOLDIERS, JUST LIKE ME... AND NOW?
HONESTLY...

...I'M TALKING TO YOU, RAVEN...
MUTANT TO MUTANT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?


S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.
PRESENT LOCATION: 1,000 FEET OVER ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA.
ONE WEEK AGO.
COMMANDER HILL, SHE'S HERE.
ARE WE SURE?
MA'AM?
HAVE YOU BIO-SCANNED HER TO MAKE SURE IT'S REALLY HER?
YES, MA'AM. AND THE PSYCHIC DIVISION HAS CLEARED HER.
SEND HER IN.
(THIS SHOULD BE GOOD.)
EVERYONE GO POTTY. I'LL CALL YOU BACK IN WHEN I NEED YOU.
DAZZLER.
THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME, DIRECTOR HILL.
I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
MYSTIQUE.
I WANT HER.

I DON'T HAVE HER.
CAN I SEE HER FILES?
S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES ARE MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

YES, I'M AWARE.
CAN I SEE THEM?

I COULD IF YOU WERE STILL AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT. YOU NEVER TECHNICALLY FIRED ME.
YOU NEVER TECHNICALLY QUIT.
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS I'M TECHNICALLY STILL AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
CAN I SEE HER FILES?

NOT EASY TO FIND A SHAPE-SHIFTER.
NO.
YOU'RE RIGHT TO BE PISSED.
I'D BE OUT-OF-MY-SKIN PISSED IF SHE TOOK MY PLACE IN THE WORLD.

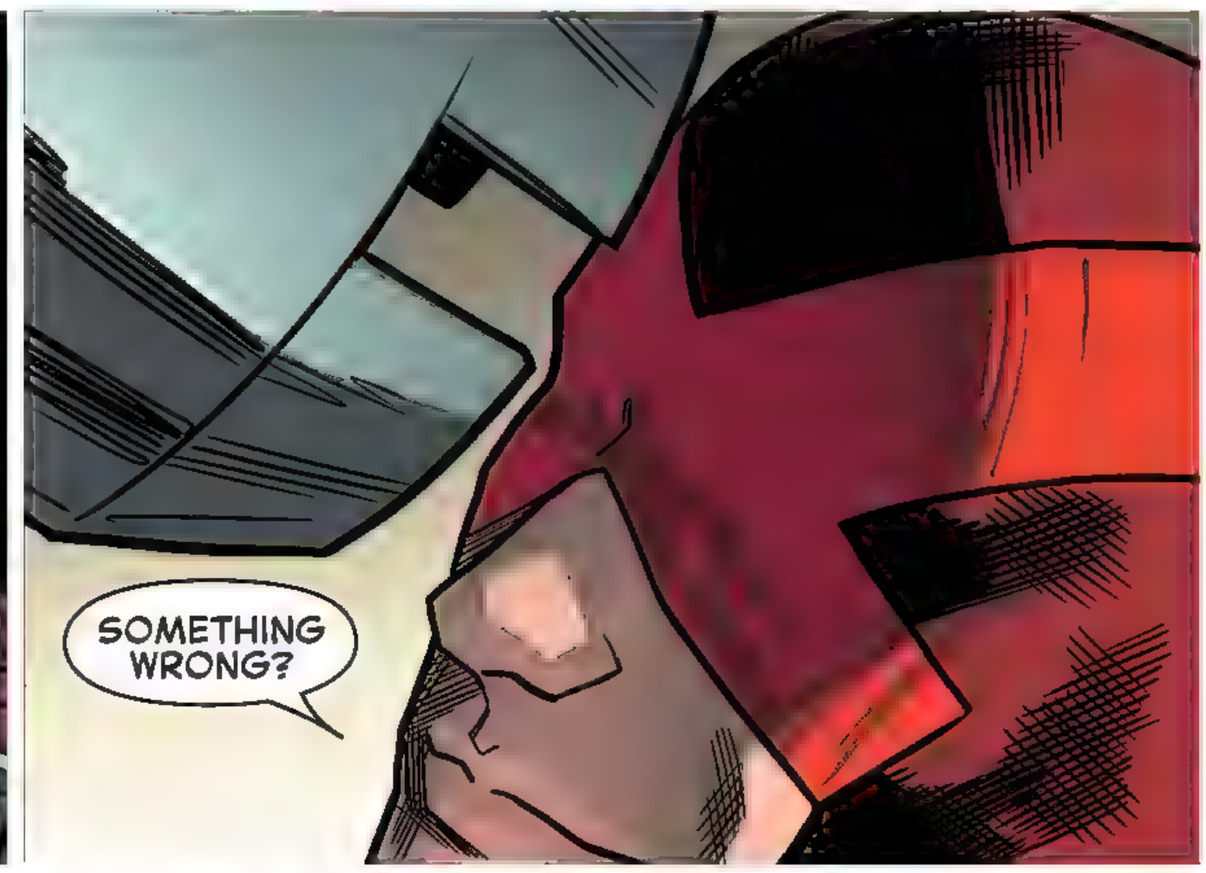
I AM.

I'M REALLY NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE YOU ACCESS TO ANY OF THIS.
WE HAVE TOP AGENTS LIVE IN THE FIELD... SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR HER.
THERE'S NOTHING IN THOSE FILES OF ANY USE.
MAYBE.
MAYBE THEY JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR.
DON'T YOU MUTANTS HAVE A MUTANT-FINDING TECHNOLOGY?
THE CEREBRO?
SHE FOUND A WAY AROUND IT.
SOUNDS LIKE HER.
HOW IS SCOTT SUMMERS DOING?
YOU COULD DO BETTER.
I MEAN, IS HE STILL INSANE?
IN WHAT SENSE?
IS HE STILL DECLARING A COMING MUTANT REVOLUTION?
YEP.
WANT TO--?
DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?
WHAT?

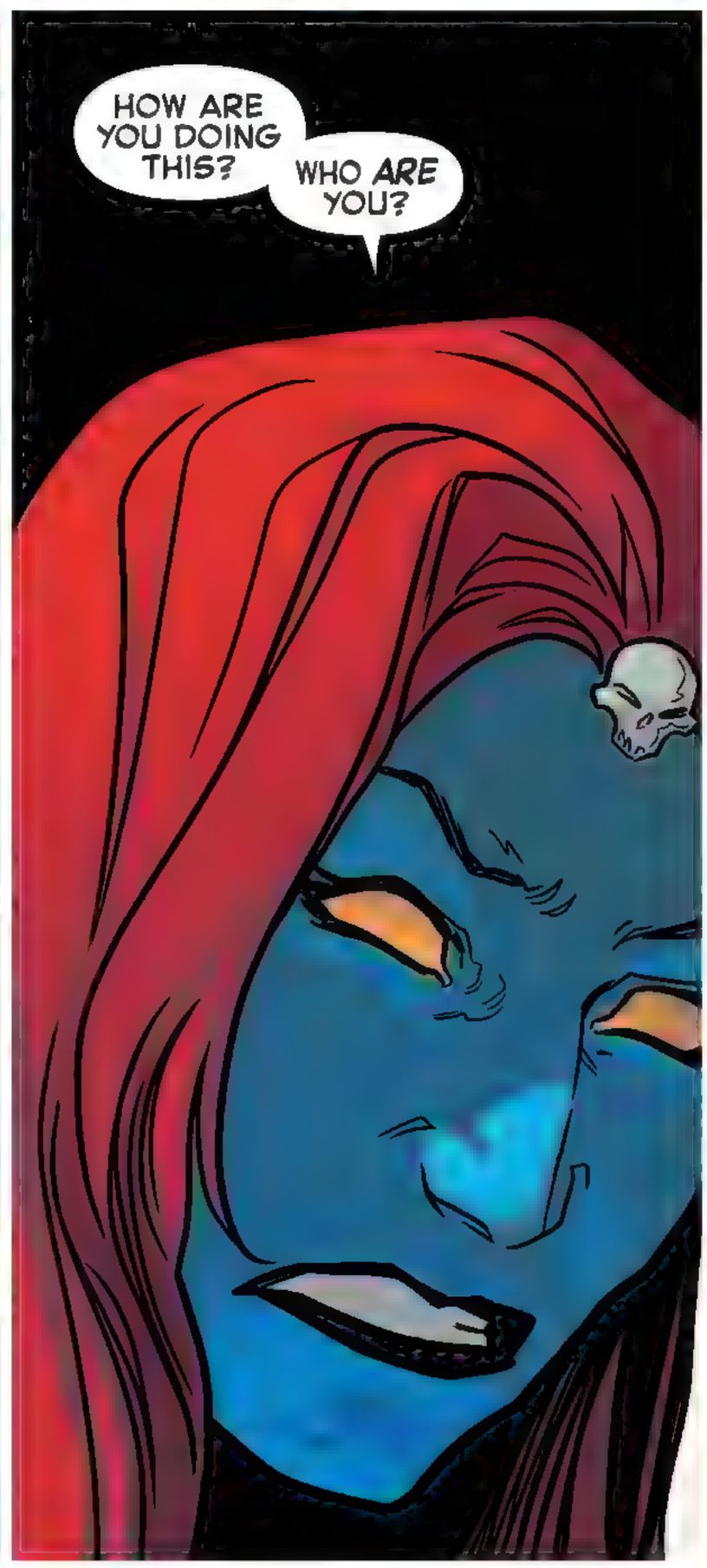
IT'S A FAIR QUESTION.
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS, SUMMERS.
BUT I THINK WE'RE KINDRED SPIRITS.
HOW SO?
I THINK-- I THINK WE BOTH EXPECTED MORE.
I THINK WE'RE BOTH STILL REELING FROM XAVIER'S DEATH.
AND LOGAN.
AND LOGAN.
THERE'S NOT THAT MANY PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE LIKE US TO TALK TO WHEN STUFF LIKE THIS HAPPENS.
THAT'S TRUE.
I BRING IT UP BECAUSE YOU SEEMED TO GET VERY VIOLENT AND VERY ANGRY TOWARDS OUR PEOPLE AFTER XAVIER DIED.
I WONDERED IF YOU WEREN'T SOMEHOW--
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
THE SAME WAY YOU HID FROM US.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I HAVE WAYS.
YOU HAVE YOUR WAYS, I HAVE MY WAYS...
AH!
YOU ALMOST HAD ME.
I'M NOT TRYING TO HAVE YOU.
I'M TRYING TO--
WHO ARE YOU REALLY?
I'M NOT THE SHAPE-SHIFTER, RAVEN.
THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU MENTIONED OUR AFFAIR?
I DIDN'T MENTION IT BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO HAVE A REAL CONVERSATION WITH YOU.
I APPRECIATE THAT.
EXCEPT SCOTT SUMMERS AND I NEVER HAD AN AFFAIR.
NICE.
BUT, TO BE FAIR, IT'S NOT OUT OF THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT SCOTT SUMMERS WOULD SULLY HIMSELF WITH YOU.
TRUE.
BYE BYE.

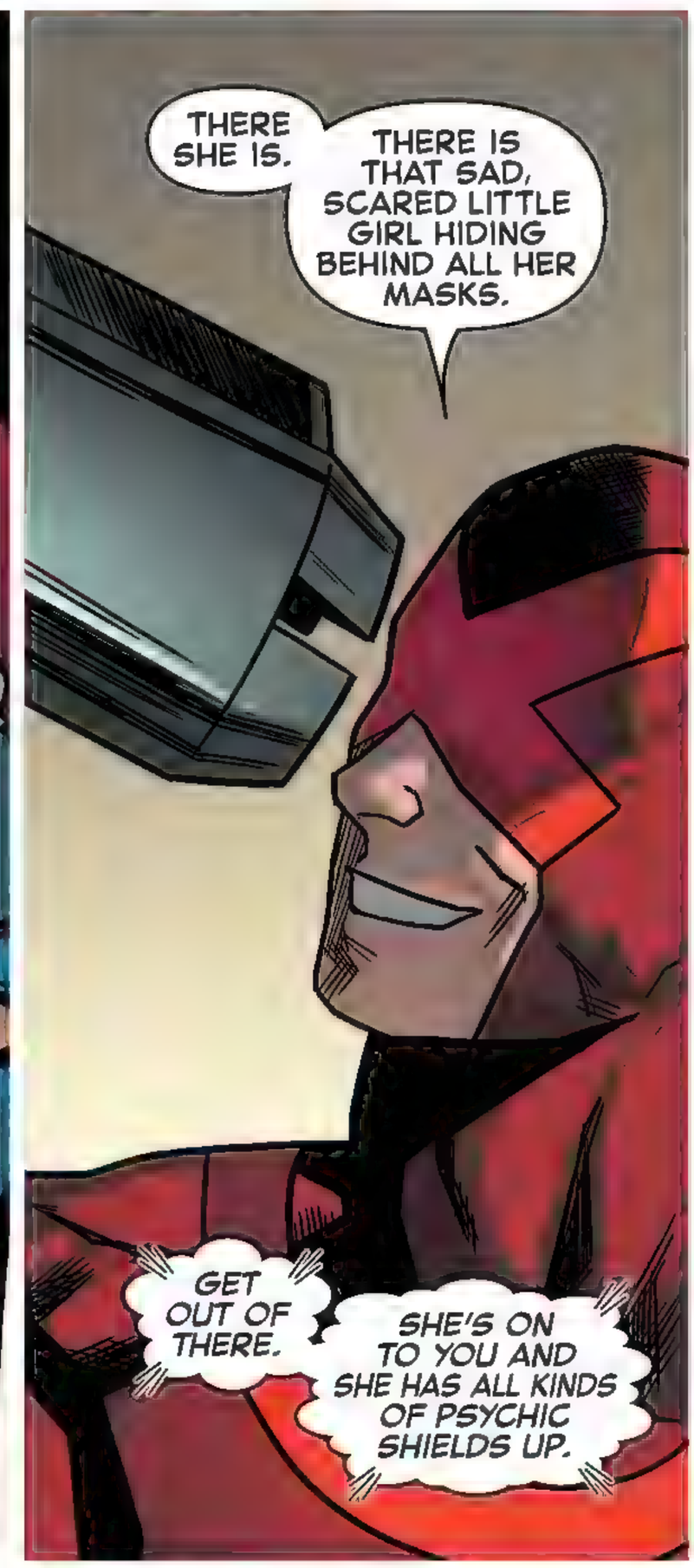
HOW BAD DO YOU, AND BY YOU I MEAN S.H.I.E.L.D., WANT MYSTIQUE?
AS BAD AS YOU DO, IF NOT MORE.
IF I BRING YOU MYSTIQUE... WHAT DO I GET?
PEACE OF MIND.
I NEED MORE.
REVENGE IS PRETTY GREAT...
I NEED MORE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT ALL THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF SCOTT SUMMERS' SECRET XAVIER SCHOOL RECORDS TOSSED.
I WANT THEM FREE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES.
I CAN'T.
THEY'RE JUST KIDS.
AND THEY REALLY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING BUT HIDE AND TRAIN.
I CAN'T GIVE YOU SCOTT SUMMERS AND EMMA FROST.
NO WAY.
THAT IS JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
BUT THE OTHERS...
THE OTHERS I CAN MAKE A DEAL.
I WANT CLEAN.
CLEAN RECORDS.
YOU BRING ME THAT TERRORIST, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT AND I'LL BUY YOU ALL ICE CREAM, TOO.
DONE.

BYE BYE.


SOMETHING WRONG?

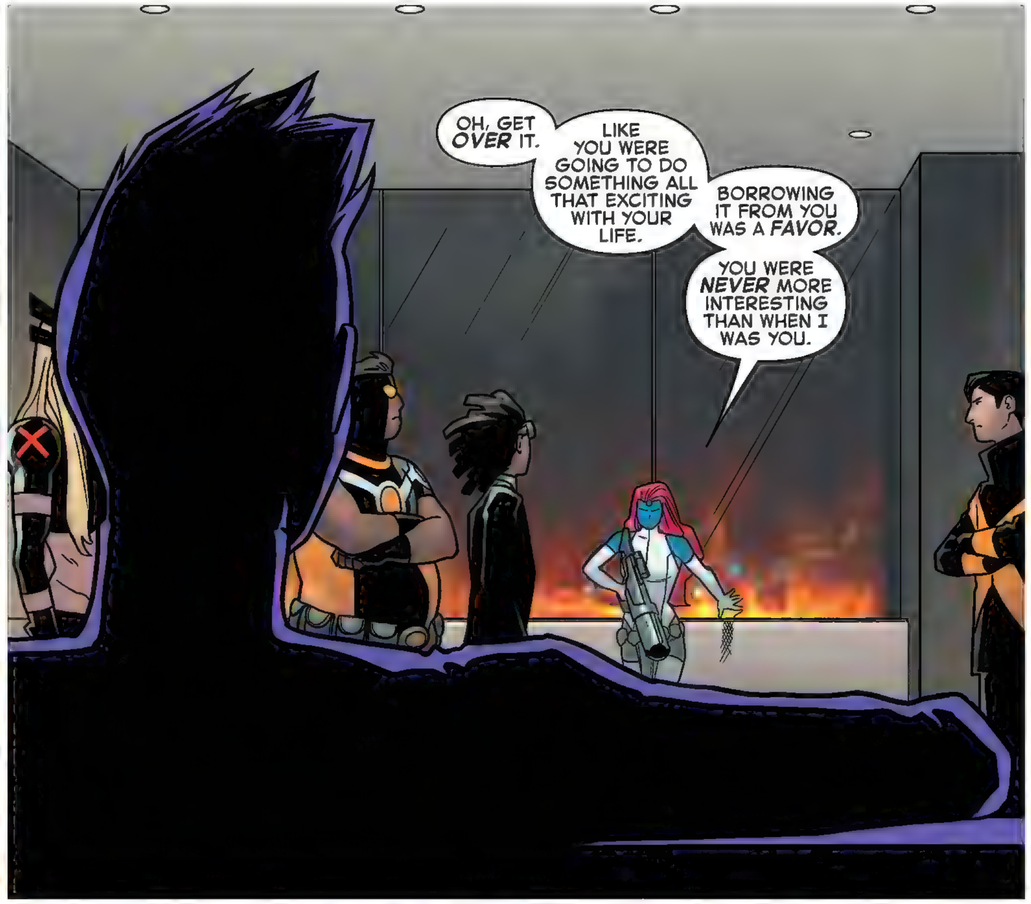
I CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER.
I NOTICED.


HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHO *ARE* YOU?


THERE SHE IS.
THERE IS THAT SAD, SCARED LITTLE GIRL HIDING BEHIND ALL HER MASKS.
GET OUT OF THERE.
SHE'S ON TO YOU AND SHE HAS ALL KINDS OF PSYCHIC SHIELDS UP.

WE CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH.
MYSTIQUE IS USING ANTI-PSYCHIC NANO-TECHNOLOGY THAT WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YET.
ONCE WE LOSE OUR GRIP...

OH, OF COURSE...
DAZZLER!
HEY, YOU.
HOW'S IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR LIFE COMPLETELY TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU?


OH, GET OVER IT.
LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO DO SOMETHING ALL THAT EXCITING WITH YOUR LIFE.
BORROWING IT FROM YOU WAS A FAVOR.
YOU WERE NEVER MORE INTERESTING THAN WHEN I WAS YOU.

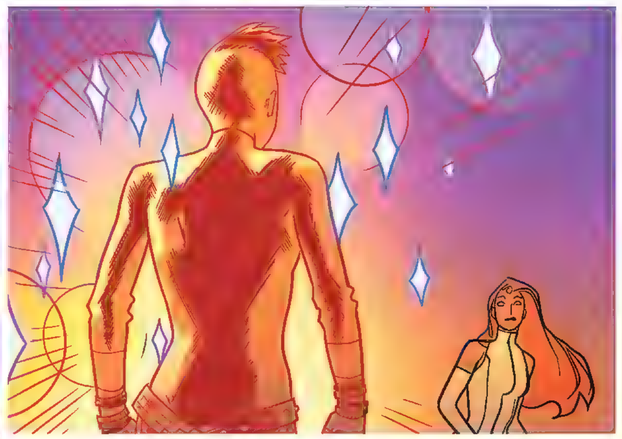
JOKES?
REALLY?
HIT IT, HIJACK.

TO 11.

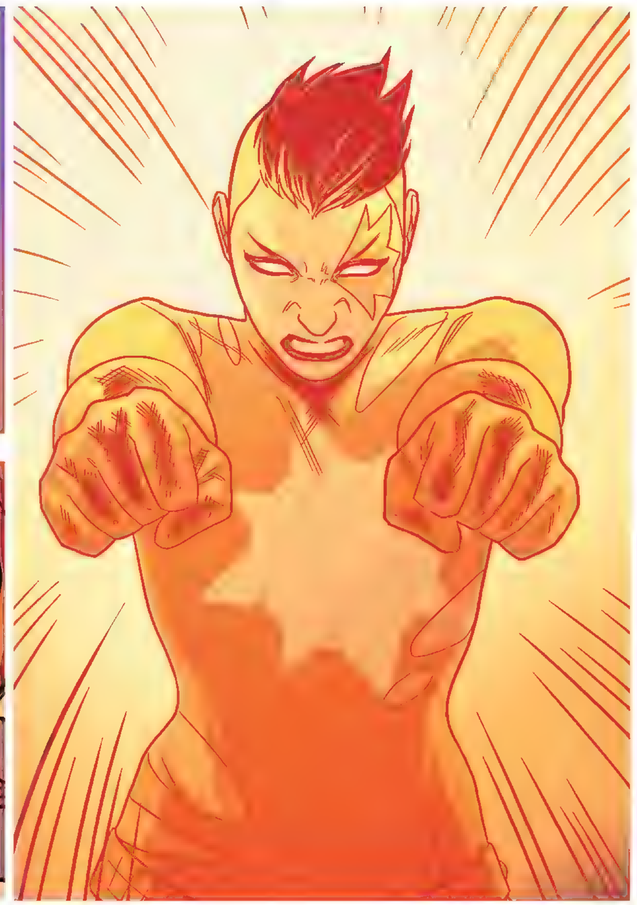
UH-OH.

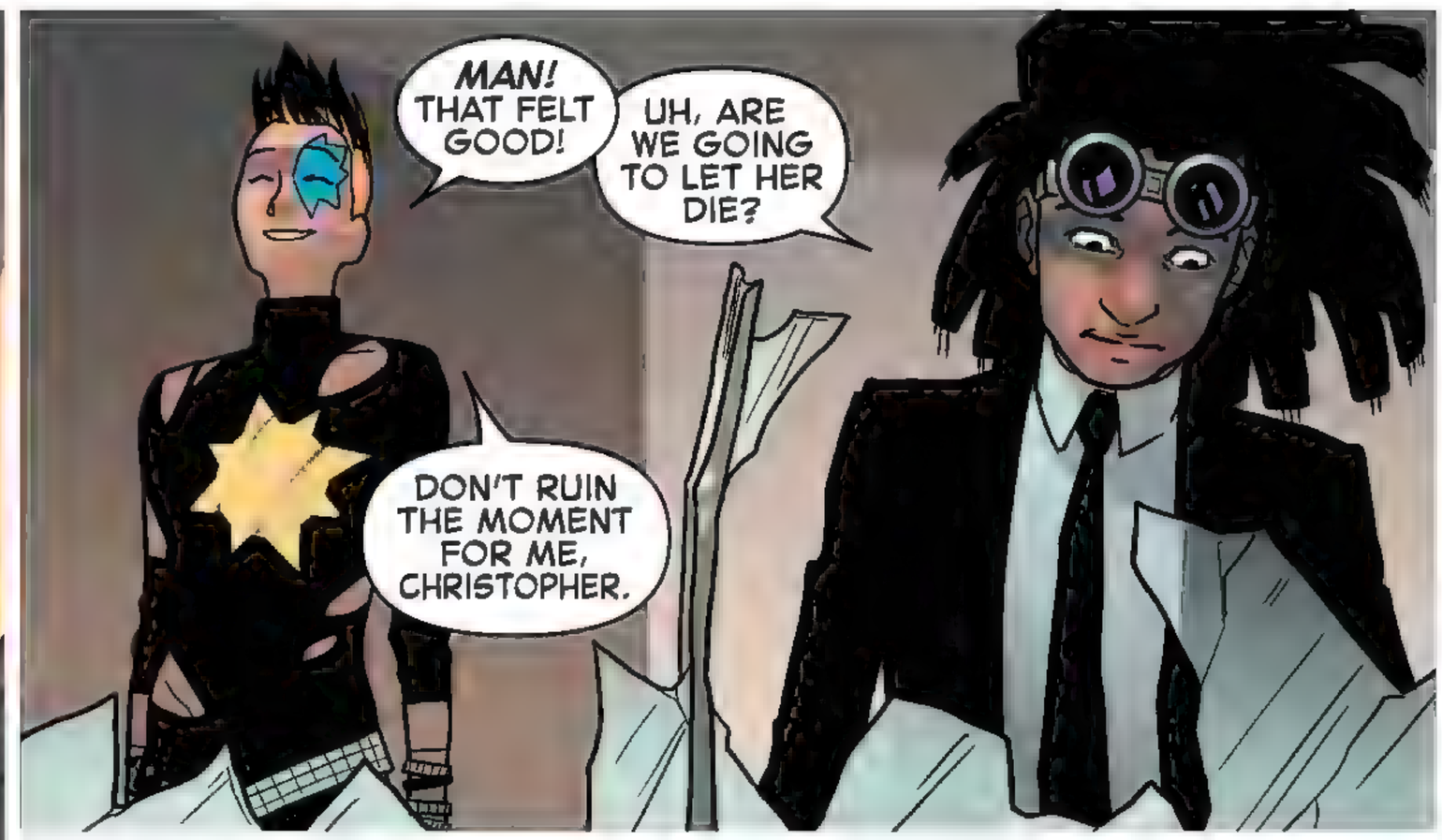
POINK!

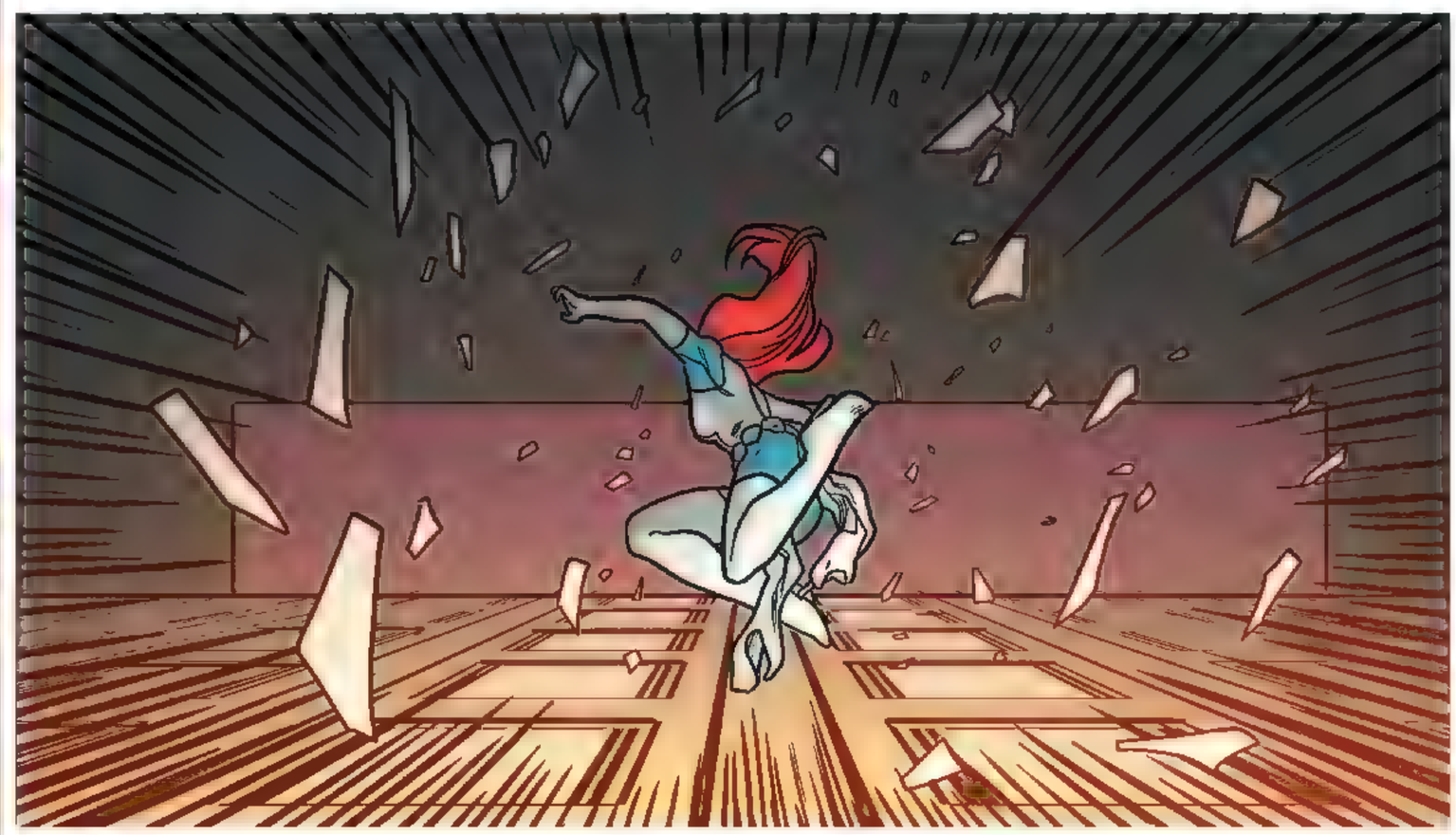
POINK!

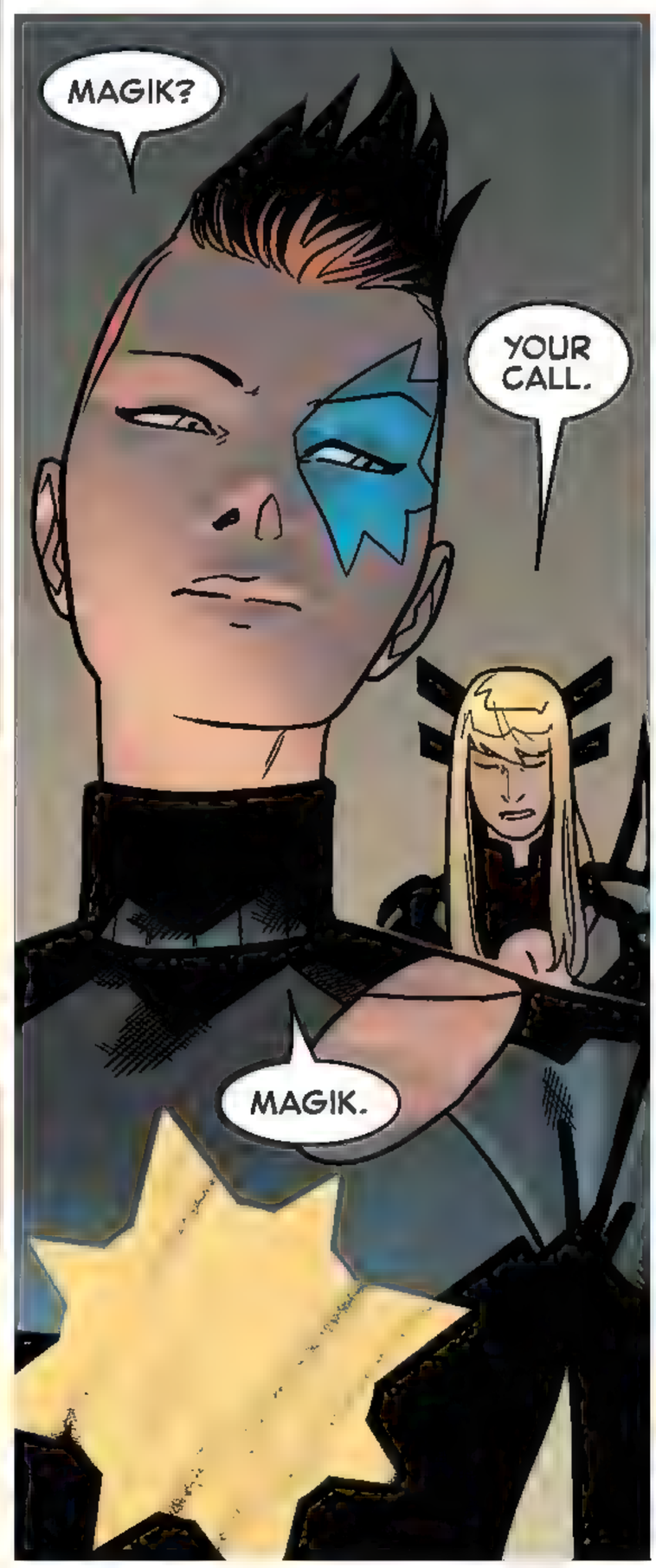


%#&@ YOU!




MAN! THAT FELT GOOD!
UH, ARE WE GOING TO LET HER DIE?
DON'T RUIN THE MOMENT FOR ME, CHRISTOPHER.



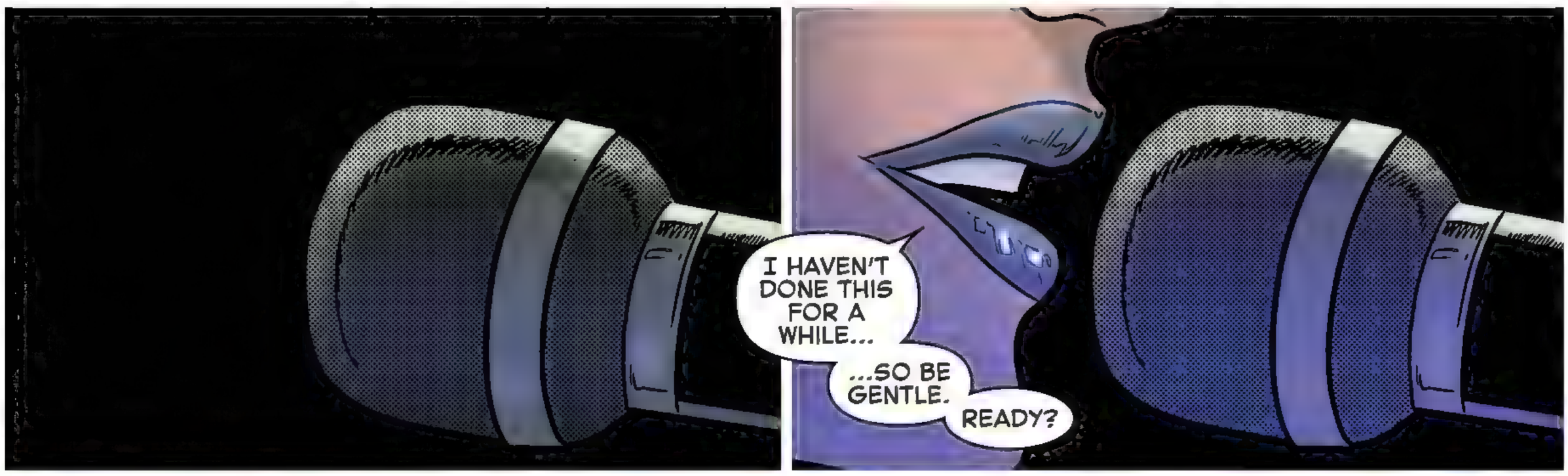

MAGIK?
YOUR CALL.
MAGIK.

FINE.

BELIEVE ME, I WOULD.

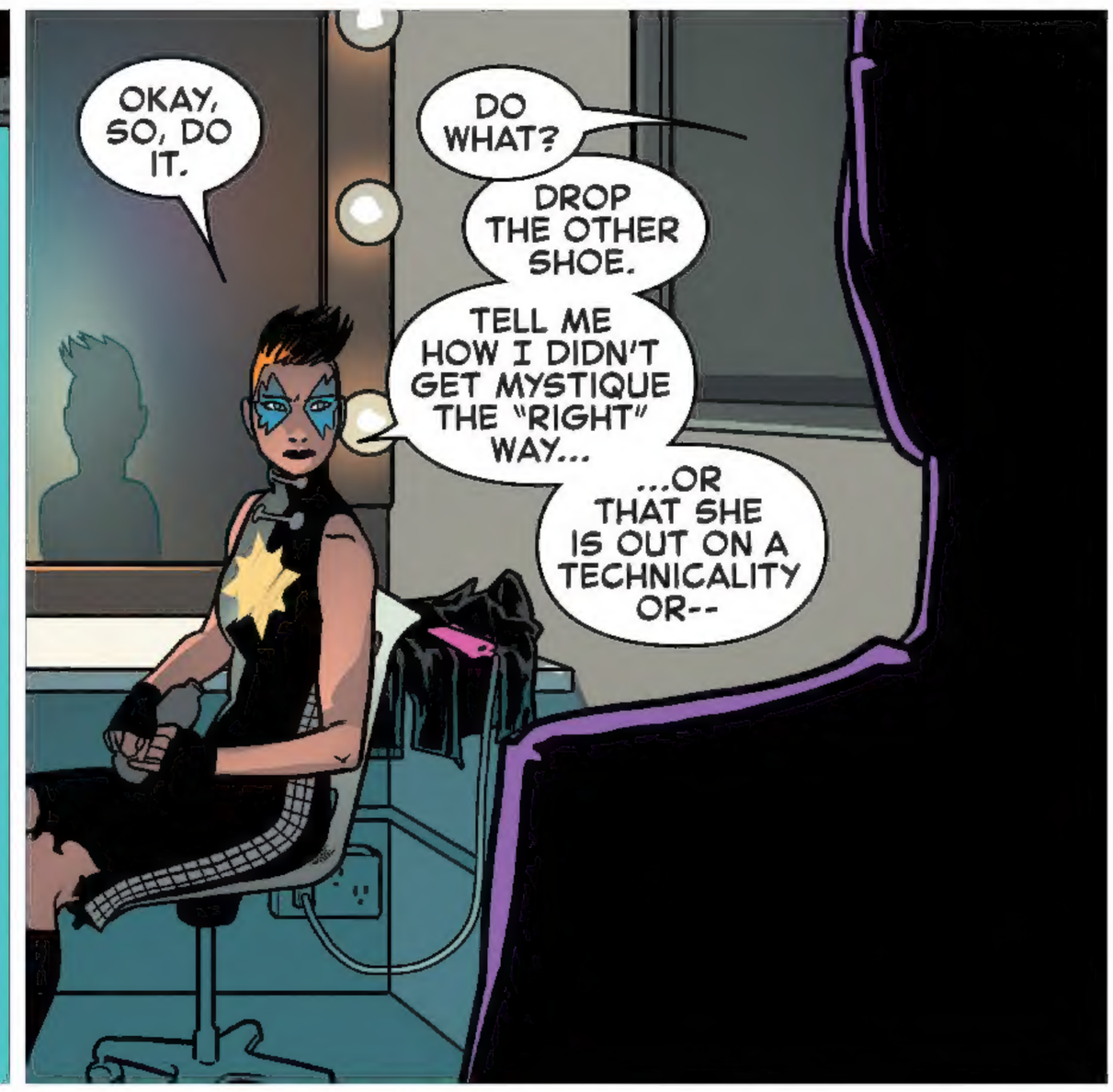
BUT I'M TRYING TO TEACH THESE KIDS SOME-THING.

SOMETHING SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT *YOU*.


I HAVEN'T DONE THIS FOR A WHILE...
...SO BE GENTLE.
READY?

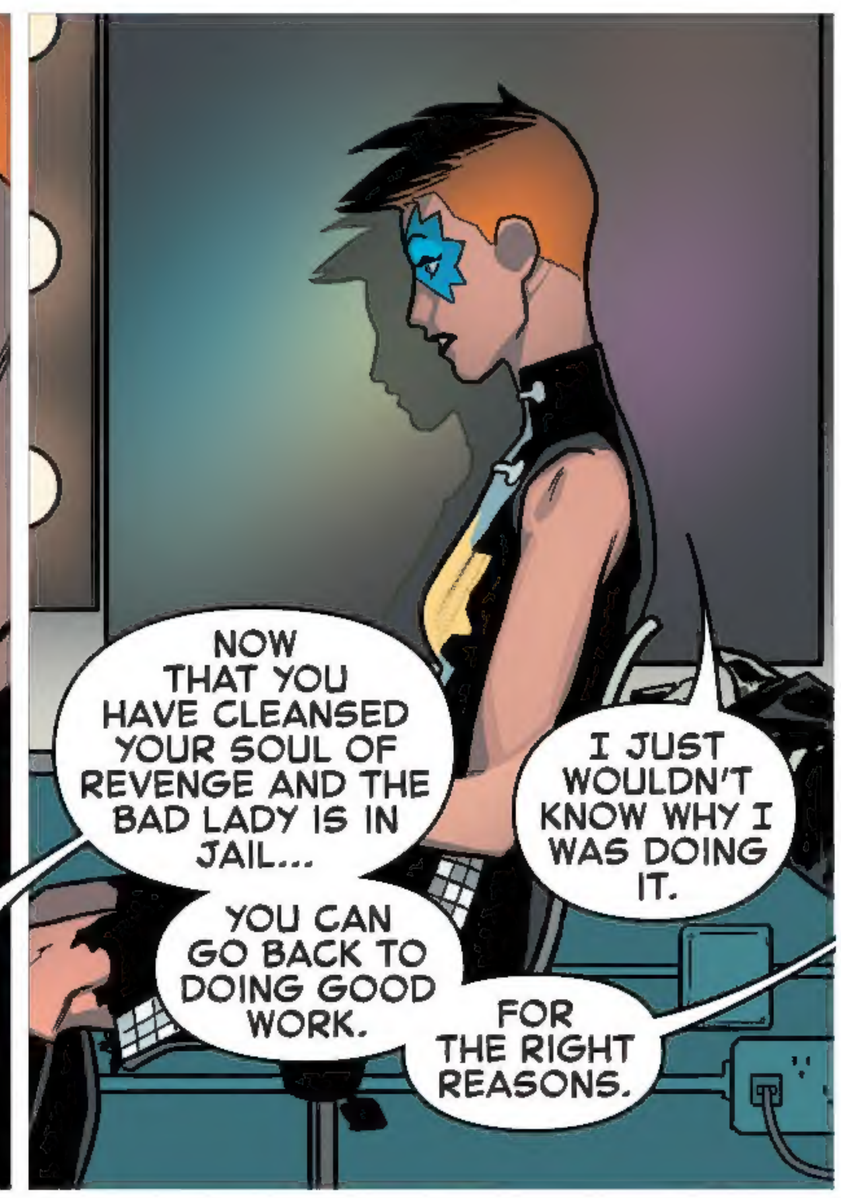
DUDE!
WOW, SHE'S REALLY GOOD.
DUDE.
WELL, SHE IS A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN.
I HAVE ONE OF HER RECORDS.
WOOOO!

SO, THAT SEEMED CATHARTIC.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MISS HILL?
CAME TO SEE THE SHOW.
I'M A FAN.
DID I NOT TELL YOU THAT?
EVEN THE NEW LOOK IS GROWING ON ME.


OKAY, SO, DO IT.
DO WHAT?
DROP THE OTHER SHOE.
TELL ME HOW I DIDN'T GET MYSTIQUE THE "RIGHT" WAY...
...OR THAT SHE IS OUT ON A TECHNICALITY OR--

NO.
I CAME TO GIVE YOU YOUR JOB BACK.
I CAME HERE TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO S.H.I.E.L.D.

I HIRED YOU TO BE THE SPECIAL MUTANT LIAISON FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. FOR A REASON.
YOU'RE PERFECT FOR IT. YOU WERE THEN AND YOU ARE NOW.
AND I-- WE NEED ONE NOW MORE THAN EVER.

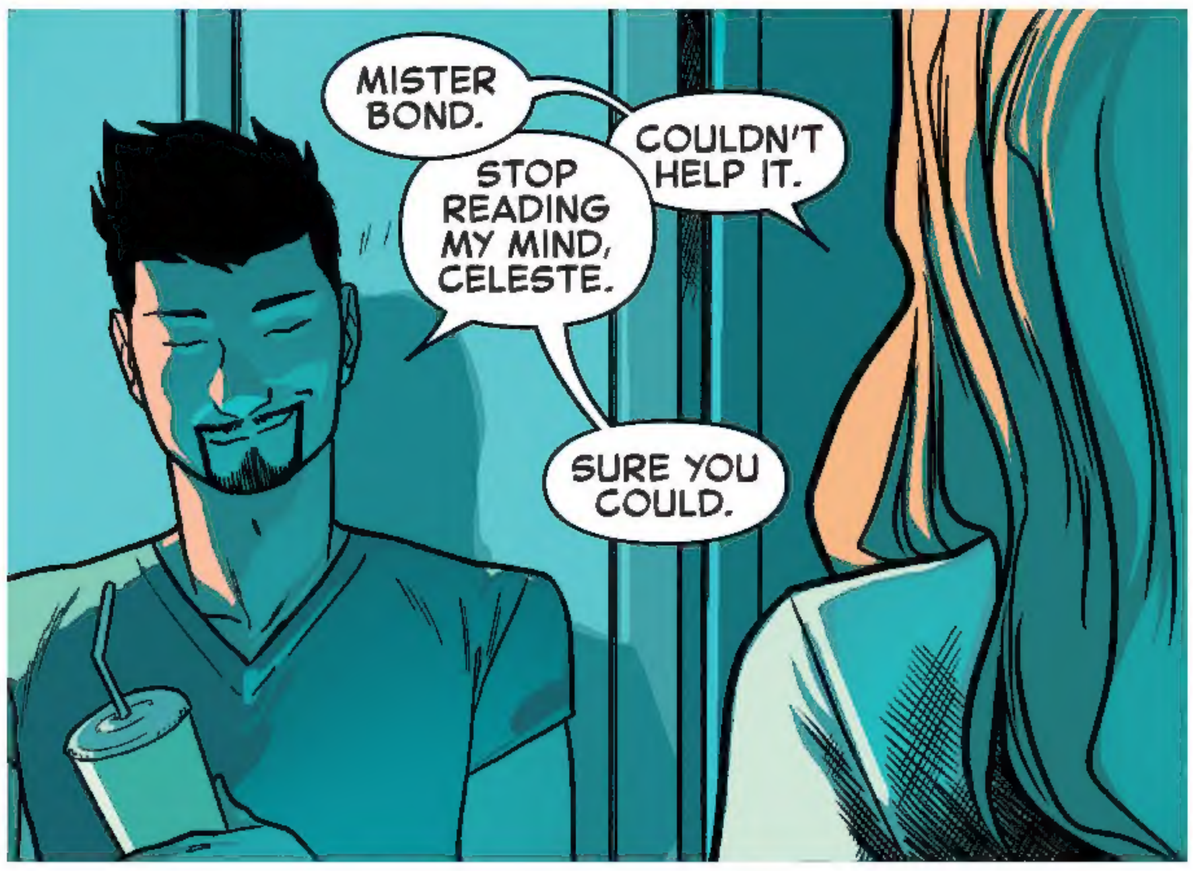

NOW THAT YOU HAVE CLEANSED YOUR SOUL OF REVENGE AND THE BAD LADY IS IN JAIL...
YOU CAN GO BACK TO DOING GOOD WORK.
I JUST WOULDN'T KNOW WHY I WAS DOING IT.
FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

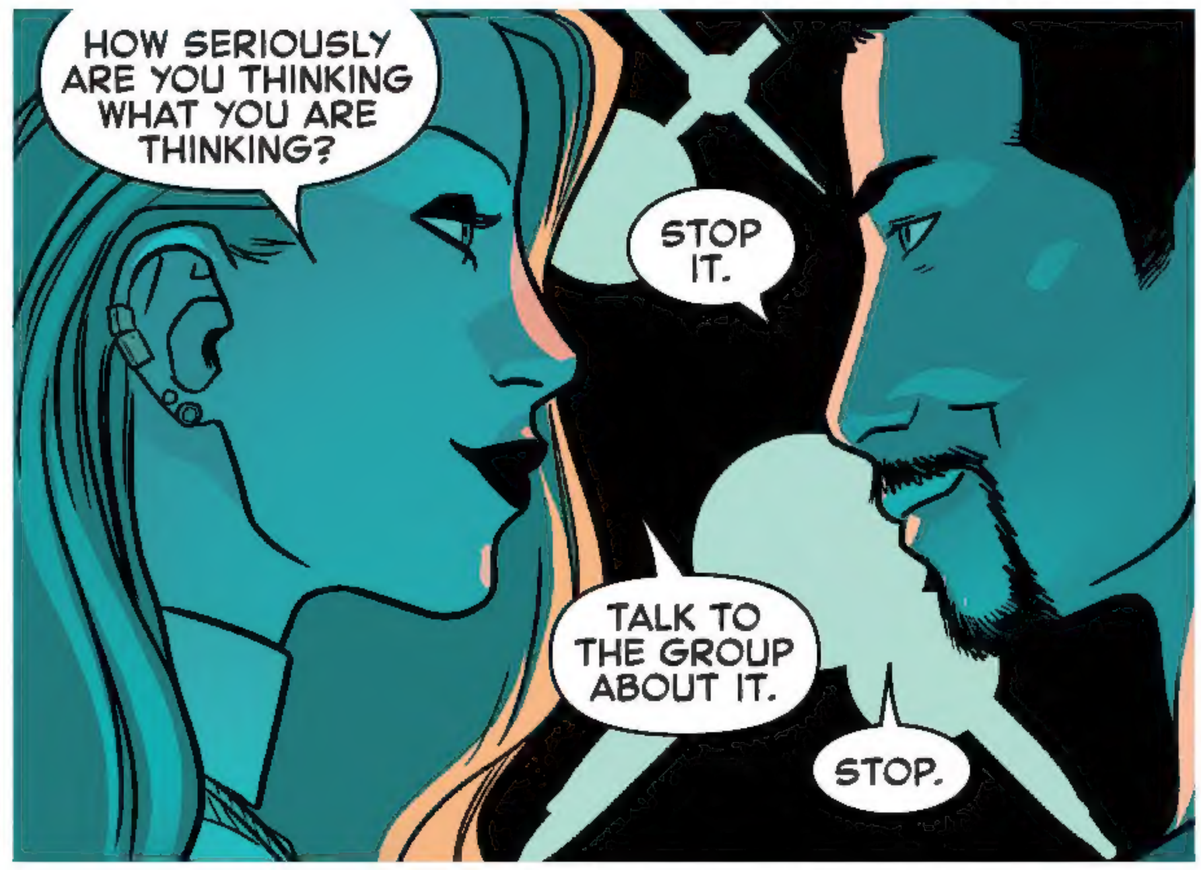
BECAUSE THERE'S A TEENAGE YOU OUT THERE. SOMEONE WHO NEEDS SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THEM.
AND BECAUSE YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT HE THINKS, SCOTT SUMMERS IS NOT THAT MUTANT.

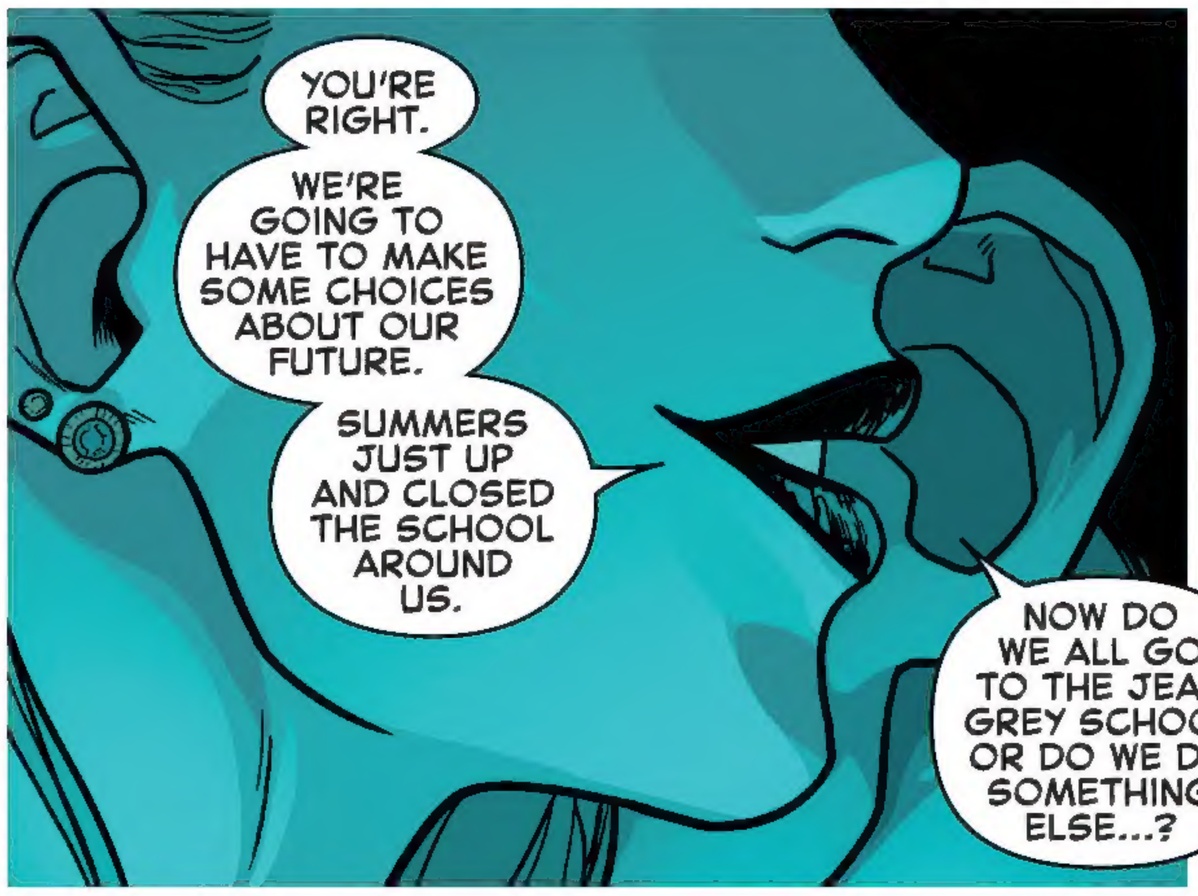
AND HE NEVER WILL BE.

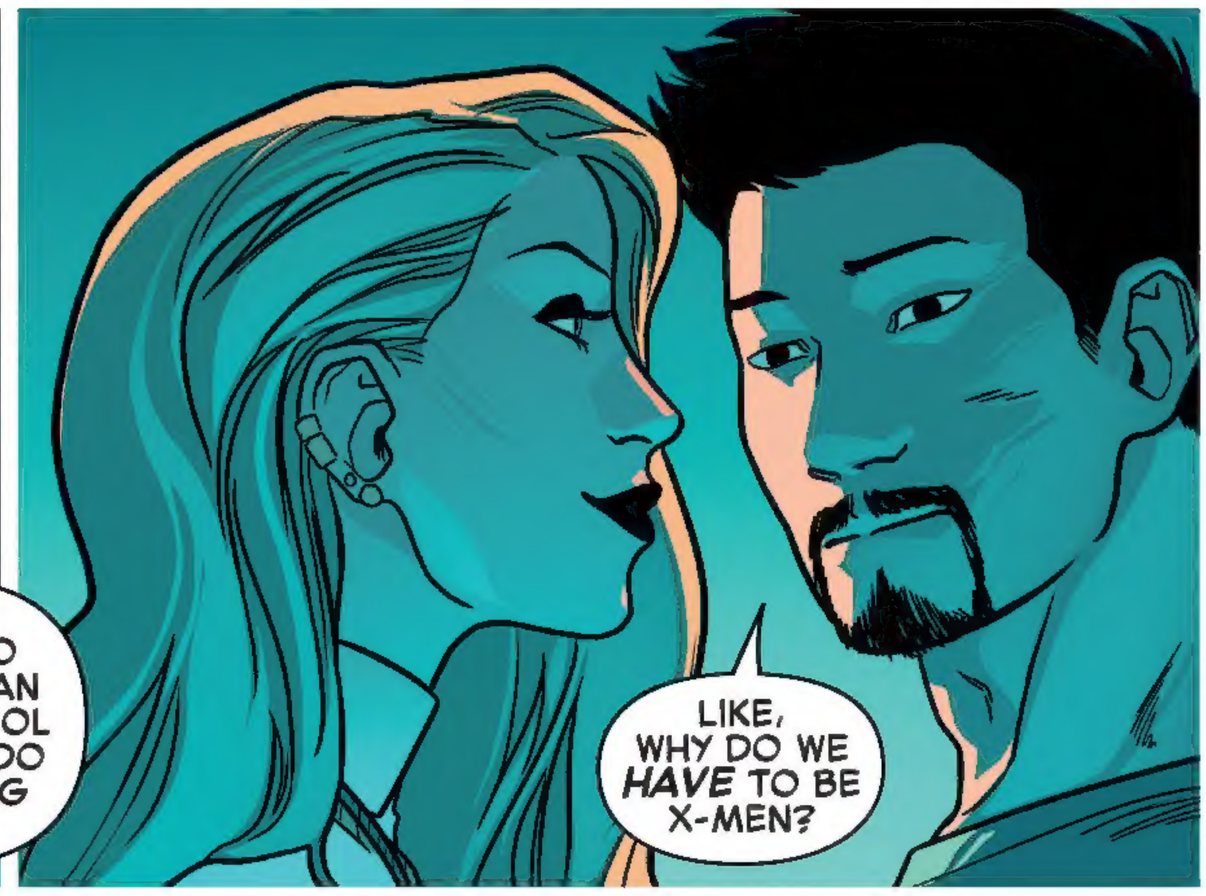
GREENWICH VILLAGE, NEW YORK CITY.
YOU'RE THINKING OF JOAN JETT.
NO, YOU ARE THINKING OF JANIS JOPLIN.
JANIS JOPLIN NEVER WORE A BIKINI ON STAGE, CHRISTOPHER.

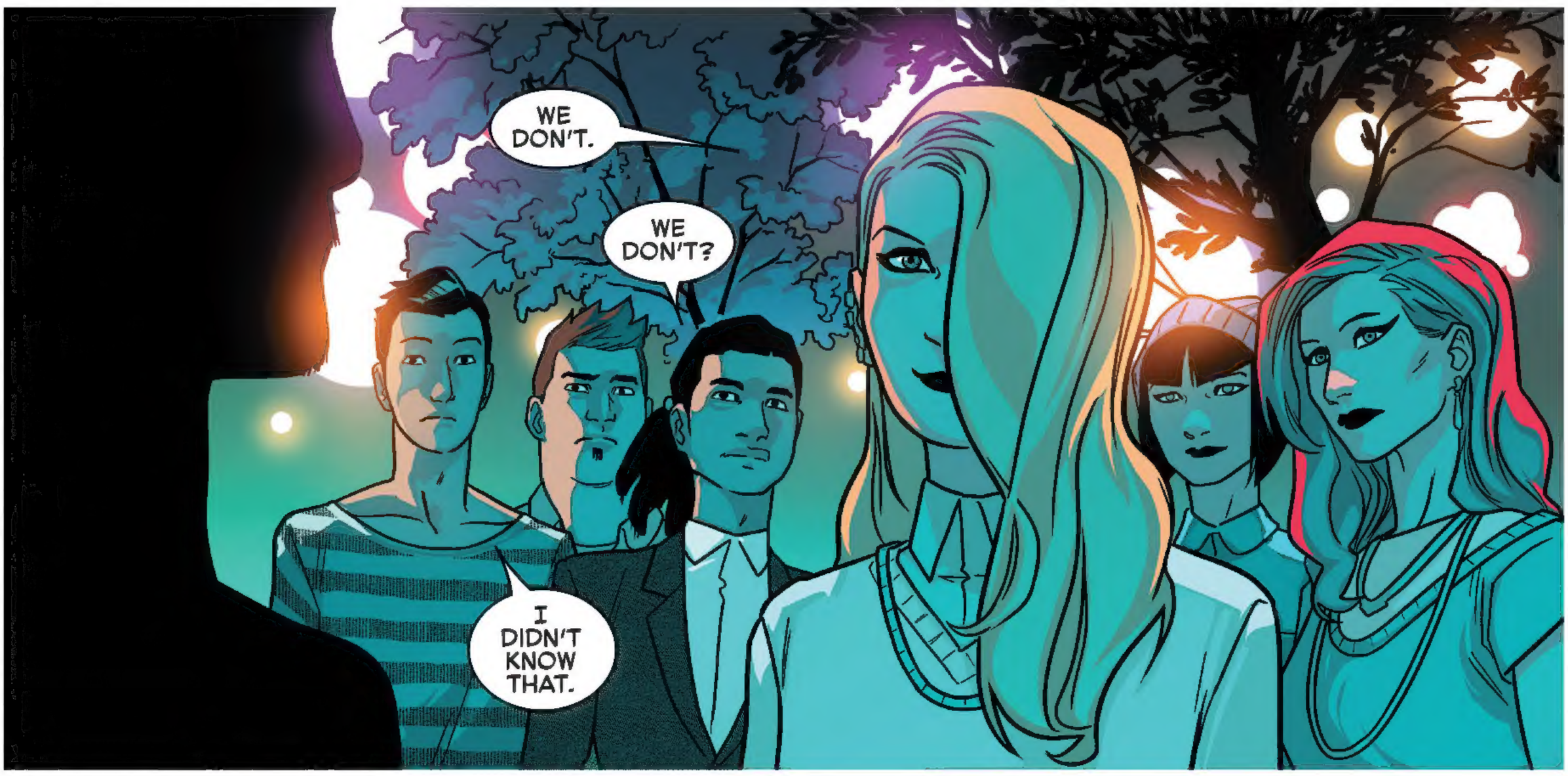
OH, LIKE YOU KNOW, BENJAMIN.
OH, LIKE YOU DO.
I WILL GIVE YOU EACH A DOLLAR TO STOP TALKING.


MISTER BOND.
STOP READING MY MIND, CELESTE.
COULDN'T HELP IT.
SURE YOU COULD.


HOW SERIOUSLY ARE YOU THINKING WHAT YOU ARE THINKING?
STOP IT.
TALK TO THE GROUP ABOUT IT.
STOP.


YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE SOME CHOICES ABOUT OUR FUTURE.
SUMMERS JUST UP AND CLOSED THE SCHOOL AROUND US.
NOW DO WE ALL GO TO THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL OR DO WE DO SOMETHING ELSE...?


LIKE, WHY DO WE HAVE TO BE X-MEN?


WE DON'T.
WE DON'T?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

WE DON'T.
WHY CAN'T WE BE SOMETHING ELSE?
THE X-MEN IS SCOTT SUMMERS' THING.
AND *HE* LEFT.
SO THERE'S NO RULE THAT SAYS JUST BECAUSE WE'RE MUTANTS THAT WE *HAVE* TO BE THE X-MEN.

CAN WE BE THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
NO.
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED THEM.
IF WE ARE NOT X-MEN, THEN WHAT ARE WE?

UH, FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE NOT PART OF A PSYCHIC HIVE MIND, *WHAT* IS GOING ON?

TO BE CONCLUDED... IN UNCANNY X-MEN #600!

ZONE